GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3220
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2007
EFFECT OF COAL MINES ON HUMAN HEALTH
Radhakrishnan Shri Varkala

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the coal mines have become a great health hazard;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any survey in this regard;

(c) if so, the results thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO)

(a): No, sir. However, mining activities generate dust polluting environment in and around coalfield areas which sometimes affect human health also.

(b): Periodic medical examination of all workers in the coal mines is done at least once in every five years as per the Mines Act in subsidiaries of Coal India limited (CIL). The fifth round of such medical examination for each employee will be completed in 2007.

(c): 1081 cases of coal workers pneumoconiosis have been detected till date in CIL out of more than 6 lakh workers examined over a period of 22 years.

(d): The following steps are taken by subsidiaries of Coal India Limited in this regard:

(i) Various dust suppression methods have been employed to reduce the exposure of workers to coal dust which include: (a) commissioning of mobile and static water sprinklers in haul roads, dust emission location such as Feeder Breakers etc, (b) black topping of coal transportation roads, covering of trucks with tarpaulin carrying coal outside the mine premises,

(c) large scale plantation along avenues, haul roads, land and OB dumps, (d) installation of Dust Extractors in drills, Dust Cyclones in the crusher house of Coal Handling Plants/ washeries and (e) enclosing belt conveyors.

(ii) Medical surveillance of all the workers is done through periodical medical examination for early detection of occupational diseases so that immediate remedial measures are taken to arrest the progress of the diseases and compensation paid as per Workmen Compensation Act.